



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

AT

MILLENNIUM SCHOOL (BEHIND THE ABO TT SCHOOL)

ALL PURPOSE ROOM

23 DEPOT STREET

WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

LITTLETON ROAD (ROUTE 110) ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Project No. 604809

Project Management

IN THE TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**LUISA PAIEWONSKY
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR**

**FRANK A. TRAMONTOZZI, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - HIGHWAY DIVISION**

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 604809

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT - Highway Division to discuss the proposed Littleton Road (Route 110) Reconstruction Project in the Town of Westford, MA.

WHERE: Millennium School (Behind the Abott School)
All Purpose Room
23 Depot Street
Westford, Massachusetts 01886

WHEN: Wednesday, September 29, 2010 @ 7:00pm

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Littleton Road (Route 110) Reconstruction Project in the Town of Westford, Massachusetts. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of roadway and intersection improvements to Littleton Road (Route 110). The project extends along Littleton Road (Route 110) from Minot's Corner (Littleton Road/Boston Road/Carlisle Road intersection) to the west to Nixon Road to the east for a length of approximately 3,100 feet. The proposed project includes geometric improvements to the roadway cross-section, traffic signal system replacements, storm drainage system upgrades, and the reconstruction and widening of existing pavements. Shared accommodations for all users have been provided in accordance with applicable guidelines.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Frank A. Tramontozzi, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT – Highway Division, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, ATTN: Project Management Section, Project File No. 604809. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked within ten (10) business days of this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

The community has declared that this facility is accessible to all in compliance with the ADA / Title II. However, persons in need of ADA / Title II accommodations should contact Angela Rudikoff by phone at (617) 973-7005 or email to angela.rudikoff@state.ma.us. Requests must be made at least 10 days prior to the date of the public hearing.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

LUISA PAIEWONSKY
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

FRANK A. TRAMONTOZZI, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

Boston, Massachusetts



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR
TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LT. GOVERNOR
JEFFREY B. MULLAN
SECRETARY & CEO
LUISA PAIEWONSKY
DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR



Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is committed to building and maintaining a transportation infrastructure that is both safe and efficient for all who use our roadways, bridges, bicycle facilities and pedestrian paths, while maintaining the integrity of the environment.

As part of the design process for this project, we are conducting this public hearing to explain the proposed improvements, listen to your comments and answer any questions you may have. At the conclusion of the hearing, MassDOT will review all of your comments and, where feasible, incorporate them into the design of the project.

We recognize that road and bridge construction can create inconveniences for the public. MassDOT places a great deal of emphasis on minimizing the temporary disruptive effects of construction.

MassDOT encourages input from local communities and values your opinions. Please be assured that we will undertake no project without addressing the concerns of the community.

Sincerely,

Luisa Paiewonsky
Highway Division Administrator

WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEARING?

WHY A PUBLIC HEARING?

To provide an assured method whereby the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can furnish to the public information concerning the State's highway construction proposals, and to afford every interested resident of the area an opportunity to be heard on any proposed project. At the same time, the hearings afford the Commonwealth an additional opportunity to receive information from local sources which would be of value to the State in making its final decisions to what design should be advanced for development.

WHY NOT A VOTE ON HIGHWAY PLANS?

The hearings are not intended to be a popular referendum for the purpose of determining the nature of a proposed improvement by a majority of those present. They do not relieve the duly constituted officials of a State highway department of the necessity for making decisions in State highway matters for which they are charged with full responsibility.

WHAT DOES A PUBLIC HEARING ACCOMPLISH?

It is designed to ensure the opportunity for, or the availability of, a forum to provide factual information which is pertinent to the determination of the final alternative considered by the state to best serve the public interest, and on which improvement projects are proposed to be undertaken.

It is important that the people of the area express their views in regard to the proposal being presented, so that views can be properly recorded in the minutes of the meeting. These minutes will be carefully studied and taken into consideration in the determination of the final design.

TO SAFEGUARD THE PROPERTY OWNER

If your property, or a portion of it, must be taken by the State for a highway in the interest of all people of the Commonwealth, your rights are fully protected under the law. Briefly, here are some of the answers to questions you might ask.

1. **WHO CONTACTS ME?**

Representatives of the Right of Way Bureau of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Highway Division. They will explain the procedure to be followed in acquiring and paying for the property. An appraiser may ask questions needed to arrive at a fair price for your property.

2. **WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR MY PROPERTY?**

Every offer is made to insure that an equitable value is awarded to you for the property, or to appraise the "damage" to the property as a result of the taking. MassDOT appraisers, independent appraisers, MassDOT "Review Appraisers" and a Real Estate Review Board may all contribute in arriving at a fair price. The State also pays a proportionate part of the real estate tax for the current year, and interest from the date the property is acquired.

3. **MUST I ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER?**

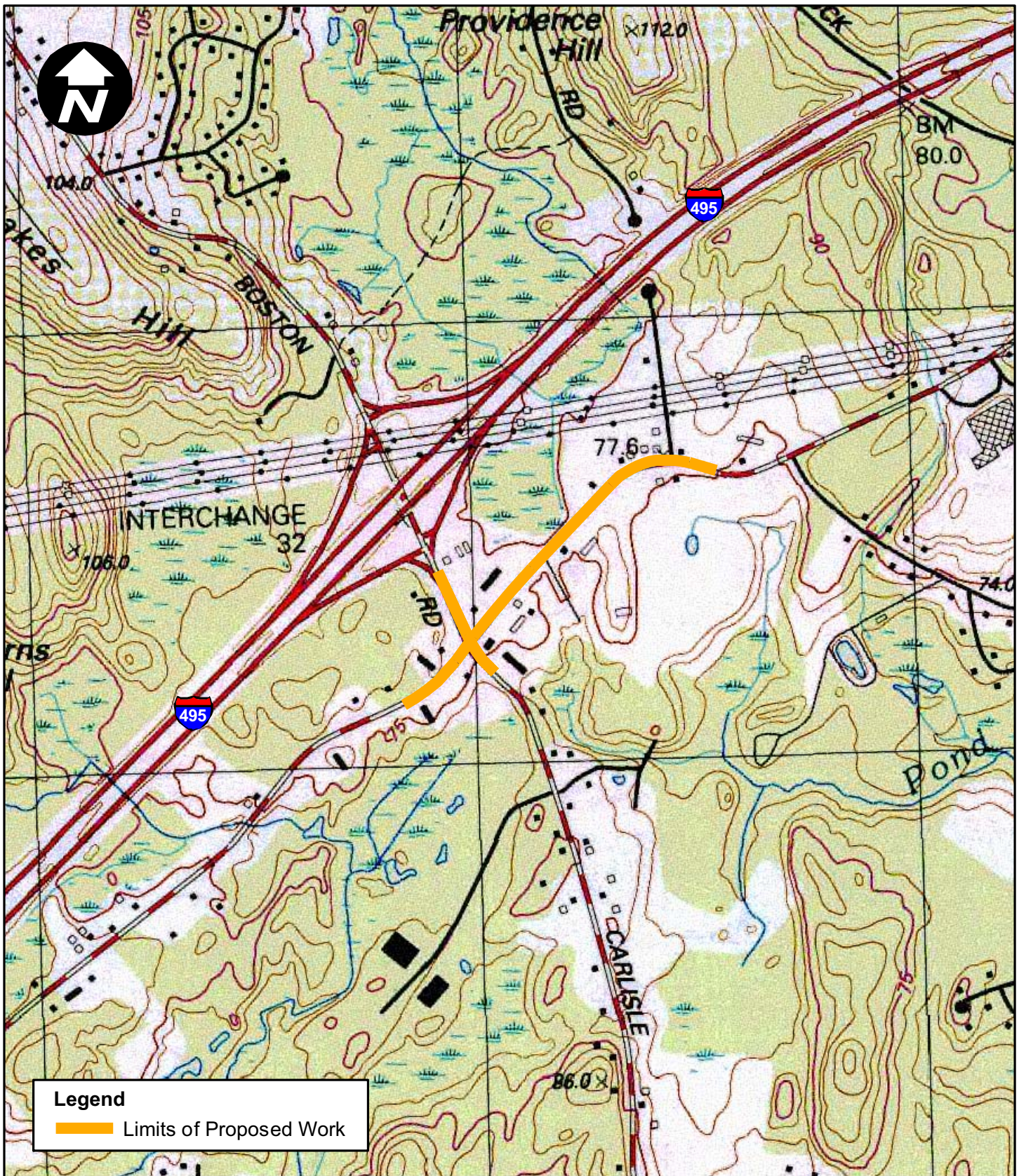
No. If, after the figure established as a fair market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right within two years to appeal to the courts. PENDING a court decision, he or she can be paid a "protanto" (or "for the time being") amount that in no way prejudices the court appeal.


4. **WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?**

The owner will have the opportunity to buy back his or her house, provided he or she has a location to which it can be moved; and the proper permits for its removal. If the owner does not wish to repurchase, the house will be advertised for bids. The highest bidder, who must also have a location and permits for removal, will be awarded the house.

5. **WHAT HAPPENS IF I MUST RELOCATE?**

In addition to the fair market value of the property, the Department pays certain relocation benefits for both owners and tenants of acquired residences and businesses who meet eligibility requirements. Assistance in relocation is also provided. Department brochures are available for details on these benefits.



Legend
 Limits of Proposed Work

Moving Massachusetts Forward.
massDOT
 Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Scale: 0 1,000 Feet

Figure 1: Project Locus Map

Littleton Road (Route 110) Reconstruction Project
 Westford, Massachusetts
 Project File No. 604809

Map Source: Office of Geographic and Environmental Information
 (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

LITTLETON ROAD (ROUTE 110) RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

PROJECT FILE NO. 604809

PROJECT LOCATION

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Highway Division and the Town of Westford are proposing roadway and intersection improvements to Littleton Road (Route 110) in Westford, Massachusetts. The project extends along Littleton Road (Route 110) from Minot's Corner (Littleton Road/Boston Road/Carlisle Road intersection) to the west to Nixon Road to the east for a length of approximately 3,100 feet. See attached locus map (Figure 1).

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to improve vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian movement and safety along the project corridor by providing a consistent roadway cross-section and improved intersection geometry. Under current conditions, traffic operations at Minot's Corner are poor during the peak hours due to high traffic volumes and the inability of the roadway geometry to process the traffic flow. The proposed project will increase the roadway capacity and address operational deficiencies in support of future traffic projections along the corridor.

SCOPE OF WORK

The proposed project includes geometric improvements to the roadway cross-section and reconstruction and widening of existing pavements. Based on existing traffic and future traffic projections along the corridor, an additional travel lane will be added in each direction on Littleton Road (Route 110) from Minot's Corner to Nixon Road. The proposed cross section will be two thru lanes in each direction with a center turning lane.

At Minot's Corner, a second thru lane will be added to Littleton Road (Route 110) eastbound to match the wider cross-section beyond Boston Road. Traffic projections for the full-build out of the project corridor indicate the possible need for a third left turn lane on Littleton Road (Route 110) eastbound. Therefore, the new cross section of this leg of the intersection is proposed to be sufficiently wide enough to support two thru lanes in each direction with three left turning lanes (seven lanes total). Since the need for the third left turn lane is not immediate; the northern left turn lane will be a painted median. This will allow the required roadway widening to be built and the right-of-way acquired now so that in the future, when the three left turn lanes are warranted, only the paint in the median will be removed.

In addition, two lanes will be added to Boston Road, one that can be converted to an additional receiving lane for the three left turn lanes from Littleton Road (Route 110) and the second to provide for double left turn lanes onto Littleton Road (Route 110).

The proposed project includes cold planing and resurfacing of existing pavements; full-depth reconstruction in areas of roadway widening; vertical granite curb and a 6-foot concrete sidewalk adjacent to the shoulder on both sides of the roadway; signs and pavement markings; traffic signal system replacements; storm drainage system improvements at the Minot's Corner intersection; and construction of a new closed storm drainage system along Littleton Road (Route 110).

RIGHT OF WAY

The proposed roadway widening improvements will impact the majority of properties along the project corridor and will require Right of Way (ROW) acquisitions as well as permanent and temporary easements for all affected parcels. MassDOT Highway Division will be responsible for acquiring all necessary rights on affected parcels.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The proposed project has been designed to avoid direct impacts to adjacent wetland resource areas. A Notice of Intent application will be filed with the Westford Conservation Commission for the proposed work occurring within the 100-foot buffer zone to wetland resource areas. Environmental impact avoidance and minimization measures will include the installation of erosion/sedimentation control measures, such as haybales and silt fencing.

In addition, an Environmental Notification Form will be filed in accordance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act due to the proposed widening of the existing roadway.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The design plans displayed at this meeting are at the 25% stage of completion. Comments made at this design hearing will be incorporated to the maximum extent feasible in the final design.

PROJECT COST

The project construction cost is estimated to be approximately \$3.725 million and will be funded through the Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 Transportation Improvement Program for the Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Name _____ Title _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____

Please Fold and Tape

Please Place
Appropriate
Postage Here

Frank A. Tramontozzi, P.E.
Chief Engineer
MassDOT, Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Public Hearing
Littleton Road (Route 110) Reconstruction Project
Westford, MA
Project File No. 604809
Project Management